

DRAFT

Plymouth Forest Reserve

Draft Proposal

September 20, 2005

Please send comments on this proposal by November 1, 2005 to:

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Overview of Natural Resources within the proposed Plymouth Forest Reserve:

The proposed reserve is located in the towns of Plymouth and Carver in southeastern Massachusetts and includes portions of the Myles Standish State Forest. The 14,641 acre State Forest contains one of the largest contiguous pitch pine/scrub oak communities north of Long Island as well as several ecologically significant coastal plain kettle ponds. The Myles Standish State Forest is the largest publicly owned tract of land in southeastern Massachusetts and offers opportunities for camping, picnicking, swimming, fishing, hunting, and canoeing. Fifteen miles of bicycle trails, thirty-five miles of equestrian trails, and thirteen miles of hiking trails also exists within the forest.

The proposed forest reserve at Plymouth ranked third in the state behind only Mount Greylock and Mount Washington among the 22 potential forest reserves using the biodiversity rating system described above. Utilizing the eleven biodiversity criteria recommended to EOE by experts outside and within state government, Plymouth had the highest rating in the state for the number of viable rare species communities, the percentage of 1830's forest, and acreage of valley bottom habitat. This forest's fire and wind disturbance patterns, the rare species and habitat associated with the vegetative conditions in the forest, and the ecology history of the area make Myles Standish unique.